

Blogger's Contract

Acknowledging that blogging is a legitimate and authentic form of journalistic publication, student and teacher bloggers must adhere to essential principles of ethics and safety. The free exchange and publication of information can help people in important ways. At the same time information can also harm people either intentionally or unintentionally.

Being a responsible blogger, or person that blogs, I pledge that I will:

- ❑ Honestly express the truth, and that if challenged, I will be able to prove that what I write or say is true,
- ❑ Always treat all people with respect. I will never use information to cause harm or appear to cause harm to any person or group of people,
- ❑ Respect and protect information tools and that I will neither do any harm to a computer system, network, software, or other person's information; nor will I allow others to do harm to a computer system, network, software, or other person's information.
- ❑ I will always be accountable for the information that I produce and publish, willing and able to defend my information or acknowledge when I have made a mistake and fix it.
- ❑ I will follow the rules of safe blogging:
 1. **Never offer any personal information** including your last name, contact information, home address, phone numbers, school's name, e-mail address, last names of friends or relatives, instant messaging names, age, or birth date.
 2. **Never post provocative pictures** of yourself or anyone else, and be sure any images you provide do not reveal any of the previously mentioned information. Always remember to look at the background of a picture too.
 3. **Assume what you publish on the Web is permanent.** Anyone on the Internet can easily print out a blog or save it to a computer.
 4. **Use blogging provider sites with clearly stated terms of use,** and make sure they can protect the actual blogs, not just the user accounts, with password protection. (Even so, it's better to assume anyone can see it.)
 5. **Avoid trying to "outdo"** or compete with other bloggers.
 6. **Keep blogs positive** and don't use them for slander or to attack others.

(from <http://www.microsoft.com/protect/family/activities/blogging.mspx>)

Student

Teacher

Parent